

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 and add new claims 10-15 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An electrostatic actuator comprising:
a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane and defining first and second opposed surfaces opposed to each other;
a first stable electrode wall opposed to the first opposed surface of the movable electrode;
a first stable electrode column fixed to the basement plane and coupled to an end of the first stable electrode wall;
a second stable electrode wall opposed to the second opposed surface of the movable electrode; ~~and~~
a second stable electrode column fixed to the basement plane and coupled to an end of the second stable electrode wall; and
an insulating solid piece connecting the first and second stable electrode walls.
2. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said insulating solid piece is made of any of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, alumina, glass and resin.
3. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said first and second stable electrode walls extend in parallel with each other.

4. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls.

5. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second stable electrode walls stands on the basement plane.

6. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second stable electrode walls is fixed to the basement plane with an insulating layer.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 3, wherein the first and second stable electrode columns are located in a space between first and second datum planes, the first datum plane being defined to include an outward surface of the first stable electrode wall and the second datum plane being defined to include an outward surface of the second stable electrode wall.

11. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein a distance between the first and second datum planes is larger than three times a wall thickness of the movable electrode.

12. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein the first and second stable electrode columns are formed as a square prism, and sides of a square cross-section of the prism are set larger than three times a wall thickness of the movable electrode.

13. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein the movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls, the movable electrode has a thickness \underline{W} and each of the first and second stable electrode columns is fixed to the basement plane at a position having an area that is larger than $9W^2$.

14. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, further comprising an insulating film interposed between the basement plane and the first and second stable electrode columns.

15. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 14, further comprising:
a conductive wiring pattern extending on the basement plane; and
an electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the first and second stable electrode columns, the electrically conductive piece being surrounded by the insulating film.